

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10194 061936Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
ACDA-12 /120 W

-----021556 070706Z /14

R 061806Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7674
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10194

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG XF PORG
SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

1. ARAB LEAGUE SOURCE CONFIRMED APRIL 5 THAT RECENTLY
COMPLETED COUNCIL MEETING FOCUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON
"SOLIDARITY" ISSUE. IN FACT, HE STATED NOTHING ELSE

EVEN DISCUSSED WHILE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CAIRO. IMPETUS FOR THIS, HE MAINTAINED, CAME FROM SAUDIS, WITH BAHRAINI AND KUWAITI SUPPORT.

2. SOURCE, WHO STRONGLY FAVORS ARAB "UNITY", DESCRIBED SESSION AS USEFUL AND THOUGHT CURRENT EFFORT HAD SOME CHANCE OF RECONCILING ASSAD AND SADAT. ONLY CONCRETE EVIDENCE HE COULD OFFER, HOWEVER, WAS "URGENT" APRIL 4 MESSAGE FROM RIYADH ASKING AL SEC GEN MUHAMMAD RIAD BYPASS AMMAN ON CURRENT TOUR IN ORDER PROCEED DIRECTLY TO SAUDI ARABIA. SOURCE OPINED MESSAGE INDICATES SOMETHING IN THE WORKS RE RECONCILIATION.

3. SOURCE NOTED RECENT EVENTS IN LEBANON HAD FREED ASSAD'S HAND TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT.(ATTACKED PUBLICLY BY OBSQIA, HE POINTED

OUT ASSAD WAS NEVER COMFORTABLE IN REJECTIONIST CAMP.) AT SAME TIME, SOURCE OPINED FIGHTING IN LEBANON HAD UNITED PLO, MAKING PALESTINIANS LESS DEPENDENT ON DAMASCUS; FACT WHICH ALSO GIVES ASSAD GREATER LEEWAY. HE EXPECTED QWLO RESUME ITS NORMAL ACTIVITIES OF ATTEMPTING PLAY OFF CAIRO AGAINST DAMASCUS IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. CHOICE OF NUMAYRI TO EFFECTS RAPPROCHEMENT HAD NOT BEEN FORESEEN PRIOR TO AL COUNCIL MEETING. SUDANESE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT CHOSEN BY FOREIGN MINISTERS WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME FEAR HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT TASK.

5. DESPITE ABOVE, SOURCE DID NOT EXPECT SUMMIT TO CONVENE IN NEAR FUTURE. SAID NUMAYRI WILL NEED TIME TO SOOTHE SYRIAN FEELINGS BUT CLAIMED IF SYRIA BROUGHT BACK ON BOARD, "ARAB SOLIDARITY" WILL AGAIN FLOURISH. HE DOUBTED LIBYA, IRAQ AND PDRY WOULD RESUME ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES BUT DEEMED THEIR ABSENCE INSIGNIFICANT. EILTS

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